Rupees 80 crore or above was outstanding as on 31st March, 1996;

(b) the stern steps taken by Government to recover the outstanding due amount; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There were 27 assessees in the country against whom income-tax/corporation-tax demand exceeding rupees 80 crores remained outstanding as on 31st March, 1996. The names are given in the annexed statement (see below).

(b) and (c) Various actions prescribed under the Income-tax Act, e.g. attachment of movable and immovable properties of defaulters, prosecution, imposition of penalties, detention in prison, appointment of receiver for management of defaulter's properties are taken for recovery of the outstanding demand. Besides, various steps are taken to effect recovery of demand including grant of instalments and where issues are locked up in appeal, appellate authorities are requested to dispose of the appeals expenditiously.

In the cases of arrears of tax due from Notified persons involved in securities scam, as per provisions of the Special Court Act all properties (both movable and immovable) belongiong to the Notified persons stand attached simultaneously with the issue of the Notification. Therefore, in respect of all demands that have since fallen into arrear, the Department has filed applications with the Special Court for issue of directions to the Custodian to release funds against the tax dues.

Statement

Sl. No.	Names of the assessees against whom income-tax/corporation-tax demand exceeding Rs. 80 crores remained outstanding as on 31.3.1996.
1.	Shri Harshad S. Mehta
2.	Shri Hiten P. Dalal
3.	Shri Bhupen C. Dalal
4.	Shri Ashwin S. Mehta
5.	M/s. Dhanraj Mills Ltd.
6.	Shri J. P. Gandhi
7.	Shri A. D. Narottam
8.	Shri Sudhir S. Mehta
9.	M/s. Cascade Holdings (p) Ltd.
10.	M/s. Growmore Research & Asset Management Ltd.
11.	M/s. Growmore Leasing & Inv. Ltd.
12.	Smt. Jyoti H. Mehta
13.	Shri B. S. Gandhi
14.	Shri Pallav S. Seth
15.	Shri Niranjan Shah
16.	M/s. G.T.C. Industries Ltd.
17.	Shri S. M. Khandhar
18.	M/s. Banque Nationale De Paris
19.	M/s. Metropolitan Cooperative Bank Ltd.
20.	M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd.
21.	M/s. Punjab National Bank.
22.	M/s. United Bank of India
23.	M/s. Peerless General Finance Co. Ltd.
24.	M/s. Standard Chartered Bank
25.	M/s. Grasim Industries Ltd.
26.	M/s. Larsen & Tuobro
27.	Shri S. Ramaswami.

Proposal for revision of base Year of WPI

498. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise the base year of wholesale price index of 1993-94;

(b) if so, the rationale behind the selection of 1993-94 as base year; and

(c) the reasons for revising the base year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The Government has appointed a working group to reconstruct the Wholesale Price Index series in view of the structural charges in the economy that have taken place since the last base year 1981-82. The terms of reference also include selection of the most appropriate and representative base year for the new series.

Guidelines to States on Organising Lok Adalats

499. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 447 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd September, 1996 and state:

(a) the guidelines issued to the State Governments regarding organising Lok Adalats;

(b) the assistance proposed to be extended to different states to organise Lok Adalats in 1996-97; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) A draft Lok Adalat Scheme framed under section 4 (b) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 has been forwarded to the State Legal Aid and Advice Boards for their comments. Comments from most of the State Legal Aid and Advice Boards are still awaited. Pending finalisation of the Lok Adalat Scheme, Lok Adalats are being organised on the pattern heretofore in practice before the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act with effect from 9.11.1995.

(b) and (c) State-wise allocation of funds is not earmarked. The proposals for financial assistance are examined on their receipt. As on 19.11.1996, total grant-in-aid of Rs. 14.40 lakh has been sanctioned. The details of the grant-in-aid sanctioned to the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards/State Legal Services Authorities for purposes shown against them are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the State Legal Aid & Advice Board/State Legal Services Authority	Amount of the grant-in-aid Rs.	For the purpose of
1.	Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority.	2,00,000	Organising Lok Adalats/Legal Literacy Programmes etc.
2.	Himachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority.	1,00,000	Conducting Lok Adalats and Legal Literacy Camps.
3.	Kerala State Legal Aid & Advice Board.	1,00,000	Implementing the Lakshadweep Legal Services Project.
4.	Punjab State Legal Services Board.	1,00,000	Organising Lok Adalats, Legal Aid Seminars and Para Legal Literacy Campaigns.
5.	Tamil Nadu State Legal Aid & Advice Board.	4,00,000	Implementation of four Legal Aid Programmes viz. Legal Aid Camps, holding of Lok Adalat and running of Mediation Centres and Centres for Women.
6.	Delhi Legal Aid and Advice Board.	2,00,000	Organising Lok Adalats.
7.	Pondicherry Legal Aid & Advice Board.	50,000	Implementation of various Legal Aid Programmes.

This does not include grants-in-aid to social action groups in different States.